

HIGHLAND MAIN STREET MEETING
SIP Coffee House 2815 Jewett Street Highland, Indiana 46322
April 7, 2016 MINUTES

Call to Order

At 6:45 PM, the Highland Main Street (HMS) meeting was called to order by President Dawn Diamantopoulos at SIP Coffee House located at 2815 Jewett Street in Highland, Indiana.

Roll Call:

The following members of the 2016 Highland Main Street Board were present: Dawn Diamantopoulos, Julie Larson, and Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro. Dan Dunn, Marion Case, Marie Russo, Tracy Oprea, Mario DeGeorge, Alicia Rosignol, and Jen Duncan were absent. Others present included Lee Kause, Michael Vanes, Lily Rex, Lola McKay, and Theresa Pecsek.

Minutes:

Minutes from the March 3, 2016 meeting were not approved due to the lack of a quorum.

Poet Laureate Program

Julie Larson introduced Highland's first Poet Laureate, Lilly Rex. Lilly is a senior at Purdue Calumet. She plans to organize a Poetry Festival for children at Highland's Public Library, develop creative writing programs for school age children, and hold fun adult events such as "Good Beer and Bad Poetry" nights at local establishments. The group wished her much success. She will be introduced at the next Town Council meeting and provide the prayer and a poem for the meeting.

Public Art

Julie reported that she has spoken to Michigan City's art group about their public art program. She will also follow up with the organizers of the public art project in Decatur, Indiana. Cecile reported that the Redevelopment Commission is very enthusiastic about a public art project and has asked for further investigations on the cost for pedestals. If the cost is considered reasonable, the Commission will provide them for the art work.

Town Theatre

Dawn reported that the Town Theatre Board elected the following officers: President—Dawn Diamantopoulos, Vice President—Bruce Leep, Secretary—Tracy Oprea, and Treasurer—Keith Bruxvoort. The Board approved the Explorer Program which will provide career exploration for 14 to 20 year olds. The Town Theatre will be the post. Cecile stated that the Redevelopment Commission should receive the final schematic design with rough cost figures soon.

Municipal Parking Lot on the Corner of Highway and Kennedy Avenues

Theresa provided an overview of her design for the Municipal Parking Lot facing Kennedy Avenue. She explained the types of shrubs, flowers, and planters that will be needed. Dawn suggested a "Community Garden Day" that would provide residents with an opportunity to donate specific flowers for the area. Theresa will research prices for the items and report back to the group. Cecile will take the plans to the Redevelopment Commission for approval and then to the Town Council.

Car Cruise

Michael and Lee showed the flyers and posters that have been designed and donated by AC Graphix. Michael stated that there will be two large 3'x 6' signs for the event, as well as, banners at several locations. Cecile reported that security for the event will be posted in May with the Police Department. If no officers are available, private security or officers from other towns may be contacted. Volunteers will be needed to sell Car Cruise T-shirts and to assist with the parking of vehicles.

Cash Mob

Members discussed a possible location for the next Cash Mob at the intersection of Highway and Ridge. Cecile will visit to ascertain the owner's interest.

Art Display

No further report.

Coupon Program

No report.

Art & Cultural District

Cecile reported that the Commission reviewed the draft plan with SEH, the contractor for the project, and SEH will make the changes and provide a final plan soon.

Highland Rookery

Cecile reported that she heard the Director of the Little Calumet River Basin Commission on a local radio program. He stated that the Commission was preparing to make some upgrades at the Rookery.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.